

# Michigan Supreme Court

## Office of Public Information

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### JOHN D. PAYANT DIES; SERVED MICHIGAN AS JUDGE, STATE LEGISLATOR

LANSING, MI, November 6, 2001 – John D. Payant, who served as a Circuit Judge and state representative, was “an example of a giving life, whether on the bench or in the Legislature,” said Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan today.

Payant passed away on November 5 from complications related to liver cancer. He was 66 years old. Flags at the state Capitol were lowered at half-staff to honor Payant, a two-term member of the Michigan House of Representatives. He represented the 109<sup>th</sup> District in the Upper Peninsula from 1968-72.

In 1982, Payant was appointed by Gov. William Milliken as a judge of the 41st Circuit, which includes Menominee, Dickinson and Iron counties. Payant was later elected to three six-year terms. He also served as Chief Judge of the 41<sup>st</sup> Circuit. Payant retired from the bench in August 2000.

Payant was a graduate of Kingsford High School and St. Norbert College. He received his law degree from Marquette University Law School, where he was Associate Editor of the Marquette University Law Review. He practiced law in Iron Mountain as a sole practitioner and as a partner with McNeil, Payant, Mouw & Lori for 20 years before becoming a Circuit Judge.

Payant is survived by his wife of over 40 years, Judith, and their four children.

A wake will be held on Wednesday, November 7 from 4-8 pm. at the Erickson-Rochon funeral home, 901 South Carpenter Avenue, in Iron Mountain. A funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, November 8 at 10 a.m. at the American Martyrs Church, 910 Sagola Avenue, Kingsford.

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